

My name is Jacob Houser and I wish to respectfully express my opinion that renewal of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) should be done as soon as possible.

I am employed in the Wind Energy sector as an installation and service technician. Only six months ago I was a student working my way through school on an exceptionally tight budget in an attempt to expand my marketable skills in an area of our economy which seemed a logical field for meaningful employment. To my great joy, I was hired immediately out of school at a highly competitive wage with a good company that both manufactures turbine components and contracts to operate and maintain turbines. I have been traveling the country every since applying my skills in various regions, doing my part to help solidify our country's energy independence and future.

Renewable energy not only polls very favorably amongst voters for its many benefits (most importantly being energy security), but provides domestic jobs in a time when manufacturing in our country has almost become a myth. If the PTC expires, projections are that almost all growth in the wind energy sector will flat-line, the fledgling manufacturing industries that have sprung up across the country in many districts will see an automatic drop in demand and layoffs will begin industry-wide.

I think it is essential that congress not allow this to happen.

I would like to cite some statistics that I think will highlight my position:

- In 2010, approximately 85,000 US workers were employed in the Onshore Wind Energy sector. If the PTC is allowed to continue and growth rates remain consistent across the United States, by 2020, that number is projected to nearly triple. Renewal of the PTC will also encourage the recently streamlined process for offshore development which will double the total number of people employed domestically in the industry by 2020 to more than half a million. This would make it as large an industry as agricultural production. (AWEA, 2010)
- Wind Energy not only promotes jobs within the scope of its industry, but ancillary employment as well. There are over 200 training programs in the United States that have dedicated programs and staff who work to provide the advanced skills necessary for employment in Wind. The materials involved in the fabrication of turbines also generate demand in the steel industry, electronics industry and IT industry, for specialized components. (AWEA, 2010)
- As most turbines are sited on private land, leasing agreements between the companies and private land owners are often a huge economic boon for marginal communities in rural areas. On average, land owners are paid between \$2,500-\$5,000 per turbine per year, or 3.5% of the turbine's gross revenue. Often times, this sum is considerably more as it is tied to inflation and other conditions, such as land degradation. (Wiser, 2001)

I've heard argument that the Wind Industry (along with the solar industry) needs to prove it can be competitive by growing without subsidy by the government. This rhetoric is misleading and bears no resemblance to the actual economic system at play in the United States. The whole domestic energy sector is subsidized. Between 2002 -2009, The Environmental Law Institute estimates that fossil fuel energy subsidies amounted to upwards of \$72 billion dollars. Ethanol subsidies in that same time period

were approximately \$17 billion. The entire renewable energy sector (excluding Ethanol) including both wind and solar accounted for a comparatively modest \$5 billion dollars.

Even at 1/14th the rate of subsidy as fossil fuels, Wind and Solar are competitive. If both were to be subsidized at equal rates, thus providing no competitive advantage for fossil fuels, Wind and Solar would be far more competitive than oil, coal or natural gas.

But what I'm advocating is not even an increase- just the continuation of a program that has already proven that with very little subsidy, renewable energy is more than competitive with traditional sources, provides jobs, educational opportunities and ancillary economic benefits for communities.

Please renew the Production Tax Credit and help our country on its path of progress.

Respectfully,

Mr. Jacob E. Houser

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